

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 1

NOVEMBER 1959



GIVE THANKS BY GIVING THROUGH YOUR CHURCH

Congregational Christian Service Committee
110 East 29th Street, New York 16, N.Y.



Congregational Christian Historical Society

The Congregational Christian Historical Society was founded in 1952 at Boston as a national organization under the inspired leadership of Frederick L. Fagley, of blessed memory. He served as Secretary in New York until his death in 1958, and left the Society well established.

The office of the Society was moved to Boston early in 1959 with the election of Vaughan Dabney, Dean Emeritus of Andover Newton Theological School, as Secretary. The Board of Governors, Executive Committee and Officers consist of official representatives of such sponsoring and supporting agencies as the General Council, the Home and Foreign Boards, the State Conferences and Congregational Library, in addition to members at large.

Selected scholars constitute the Fellows of the Society, one of whom, Professor Roland H. Bainton, Yale Divinity School, has prepared the following paragraph on the meaning and purpose of the Society. A growing list of 1,100 historians indicates the participation of local churches. The Society issues a quarterly News Letter, and makes available upon request important documents, church histories and anniversary programs. A new Research Assistant safeguards old records and files new accessions.

Widespread financial support is essential if the Society is to meet the growing demands made upon it. Churches contributing \$10.00, and individuals \$5.00, become voting members; those giving less are welcomed as associates. Such gifts are approved for Tax Income Credit. All donors, including historians and ministers, receive the quarterly News Letter. Checks may be payable to the Society.

MEANING AND PURPOSE

The making of history and the re-

Dr. Earle H. Ballou, former Executive Secretary of the Congregational Christian Service Committee and the guest speaker at the last annual meeting of the convention, has taken on "in retirement" new responsibility of working with some 3,000,000 refugees from the Chinese mainland in Hong-kong under the auspices of Church World Service.

cording of history are not incompatible. Witness the work of Winston Churchill. Indeed, history is made with greater zest by one who takes the past as an example and with fewer errors if the past serves as a warning.

Our Congregational history is one of the great chapters in the history of the Christian Church and in the history of our own land. The achievements and the contributions to the national life on the part of our church, even for that matter, the aberrations, deserve to be recorded for our guidance. The first stage in any such process is to locate and preserve the written materials and the living memories of the past. The old church papers of New England are so important for our national history that the state governments are undertaking their collection and preservation. The churches themselves will have to care for materials of a less formal character such as the diaries of ministers, old letters and the like. Our Society proposes to stimulate such efforts by the promotion of anniversary celebrations in the churches and by other means. These occasions invariably prompt the gleaning and often the publication of local history. Activity of this kind over a period of another quarter or half century will supply the raw material for comprehensive histories of our church, not only in New England, but on the west coast, in the Hawaiian Islands and the mission fields.

But these histories need not wait until everything is in. More material always comes in and a good history brings more. Then it must be rewritten. Our concern is to stimulate historians to engage in this unending endeavor.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 17-19: Minister's Convocation, Southern Union College

November 22: Forefather's Sunday

November 24: Tennessee Council of Churches, Nashville, Tenn.

November 26: Thanksgiving

December 1: Georgia Council of Churches, Macon, Georgia

December 29-31: Church Vocations Conference, Southern Union College

Rev. Almeda C. Vickery Visits Southeast Area

Rev. Almeda C. Vickery of Boston, Mass., Curriculum Consultant of the Congregational Christian Division of Christian Education and the Pilgrim Press, will be in the Southeast Convention area November 29 - December 5, visiting local churches and meetings held for groups of churches.

Miss Vickery conducts a vigorous program of field promotion of the church school curriculum of the Congregational Christian Churches and is available for consultation with pastors and church school workers.

Ordained to the Congregational ministry in 1931, Miss Vickery was assistant minister at the Center Congregational Church of New Haven, Connecticut, for eleven years. After this she was in New York State in church work until 1947 when she went to Glenbrook, Connecticut, to Union Memorial Church, as Minister of Education.

She was called to the First Congregational Church of Winchester, Massachusetts, as Minister of Education in 1952 and served there until she took up her present national denominational work.

Throughout her career she has served on many summer conference faculties and in teacher training institutes, as well as being Instructor Practicum in the Field Work Department of Yale Divinity School for two years.

In Connecticut Miss Vickery was a leader in the work for women and young people, including young adults and Pilgrim Fellowship groups.

While in Connecticut Miss Vickery had a weekly radio devotional service for seven years and acted as a hospital chaplain for eight years. In Connecticut she also worked with many service groups, such as the Camp Fire Guardians Association, the Business and Professional Women, the New Haven Council of Social Agencies.

Miss Vickery was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the daughter of missionaries in India and Malaya.

Mrs. Arnold Slater of Chattanooga, Tenn., and former Moderator of the Southeast Convention, is president-elect of the United Church Women of Chattanooga. Rev. Arnold Slater attended the "Town and Country Convocation" of the National Council of Churches in Louisville, Ky., October 26-28.

This Interested Me

EMILY C. LESTER

(Past President Southern Convention Women's Fellowship)

In visiting the churches of the Congregational Union of England and Wales I have learned many things which interested me.

We visited Memorial Hall, the headquarters of this group's work, which is in London. It is built on the site of Fleet Street Prison where nearly 300 years ago many ministers were imprisoned and met their death because they protested forms of worship in the Established Church, and disobeyed the laws of the king. This is where Congregationalism was born.

Now there are 3,000 Congregational churches in England and Wales, with 214,000 members, 1,300 pastors and 3,000 registered lay preachers. These churches range from famous City Temple in London, which has been rebuilt since war time bombing, where Leslie Weatherhead preaches to 2,000 people each Sunday, to small churches in London, where in 90 families only three may own a car.

In Wales there is a separate group of Welch-speaking Congregational churches, numbering about 800.

The matter of Lay Preachers interested me very much for it is also a concern in the Southern Convention. When the Congregational Union of England and Wales seven years ago discovered that there were 1,000 churches without pastors, it began developing a system of recruiting a group of trained lay preachers. In this period they have trained 1,500, of whom about 500 are women. All these have taken a carefully prepared course. This may be done by correspondence, with weekly assignments over a period of at least two years, or in weekly classes in the larger cities. These lay preachers work at another job, or are retired — and retirement often comes from 55 to 65. Most of them receive no salary, or if they do, they return it to the church. They conduct weddings, christenings, funerals, and communion, only if requested by the local church (not by individuals), and only in that particular local church.

A new project is the training of Lay

Pastors. In the first year there are 40-60 who are preparing to do visitation and other pastoral work in near-by churches to supplement the work of the lay preachers.

The important thing is that these lay people are trained and are registered with the denomination.

One phase of our church life in England and Wales which especially interested me was the "Family Church."

At one time Sunday schools were usually held in the afternoon and often had little connection with the church. (Do you know Sunday school members and even teachers in our U. S. A. churches who do not "stay for church"?") Since the war the churches have been emphasizing Christian family life. One way they are doing this is by having "Family Church" at 11:00 a. m. In some churches a children's choir will provide special music, and a junior will read the Scripture. The minister gives a children's sermon. Then the children and their teachers leave the sanctuary and go to their classes while the young people and adults remain for sermon and remainder of service.

It was my privilege to attend one of these in Cardiff, Wales, October 4. It was Promotion Day, and children with best attendance records were given books and pictures. At 6:30 p. m. a more formal service is conducted with the adult choir providing music and young people and adults attending. October 4, both the morning and evening services were followed by communion.

Church membership lists in England are active ones. If you do not attend (and are physically able to do so), you are written, visited, and asked to either attend or no longer consider yourself a member. Wonder how this would work in the U. S. A.? Our churches in England have stopped a decline in membership that had extended over a period of fifty years, and "Family Church" is part of the reason for the change.

(Written on train from Wales to Scotland, Oct. 6, 1959).

The Local Church In The United Church

Since the question of whether the Congregational Christian Churches will lose their "historic rights" in the United Church is raised so frequently, it seems fitting to print again the clear statements on the matter in the Proposed Constitution and By-Laws for the United Church of Christ. It is evident these "historic rights" will not be lost.

ARTICLE IV. Congregations or Local Churches

Paragraph 21. Nothing in this Constitution and By-Laws shall be construed as in any way giving to the General Synod, or to any conference or association, now or at any future time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any congregation or local church in the management of its own affairs. Nothing herein contained shall destroy or limit in any way the right of each congregation or local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; to retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship and education; to retain or secure its own charter; to adopt its own constitution and by-laws; to formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way and to provide for their discipline or dismissal in any way not contrary to law; to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall determine; to own and manage its own property and funds; to control its own benevolences; and to withdraw by its own decision its membership in the United Church of Christ at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control of any real or personal property owned or controlled by it.

Paragraph 22: Actions by, or decisions or advice emanating from, the General Synod, a conference or an association, should be held in the highest regard by every congregation or local church; but no such action, decisions or advice shall be binding on any congregation or local church.

Rev. Floyd Carmack has resigned at Ashland, Bethel and has accepted a call to Roanoke, Antioch. He will continue to serve Pleasant Grove.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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Superintendent's Corner

Each October the annual fall meetings of the six associations and conferences of the Southeast Convention are held. Your Minister of Christian Education and your Superintendent are present at each of these meetings. As a rule we are invited to speak and to participate on the program in other ways. We are appreciative of this and welcome the opportunity. Too, one of us is always responsible for the guest speaker. Since this person is invariably interesting and of wide experience, we enjoy our contacts with him.

You might be interested to know that this year we travelled more than 2000 miles and were in meetings on 11 days during the period of October 3-17.

The fall meetings were well attended, the programs excellent and the morale of the churches good. It was a rewarding experience to be present and to see so many old friends and make new friendships.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE

November 1: Alexander City, Antioch
November 15: Phenix City, Russell Woods; Southern Union College
Ex. Committee
November 17-19: Minister's Convocation
November 22: Roanoke, New Hope
November 24: Tennessee Council of Churches, Nashville, Tenn.
December 1: Georgia Council of Churches.
December 4-6: Langdale, Alabama

Newly Elected Conference And Association Officers And Committee Chairmen

North Alabama Association

Moderator: Rev. David W. Clark

Vice-Moderator: Rev. Ernest T. Shelton

Scribe and Treasurer: Rev. Guy L. Colbert

Pastor-at-Large: Rev. Guy L. Colbert

(The committee chairmen will be announced at a later date)

Committee on Evangelism: Rev. W. G. Lindsey

Committee on Survey and Church Aid: Rev. Ralph D. Worley

Committee on Ministry and Churches: Rev. N. A. Long

East Alabama Association

Moderator: Rev. John D. Schofield

Vice-Moderator: Rev. Charles W. Bell

Secretary: Mr. H. P. Beaird

Treasurer: Mr. Ross McCormick

Representative to Southeast Convention Board of Directors: Mr. H. P. Beaird

Committee on Ministry and Churches: Rev. Olin Sheppard

Committee on Missions and Stewardship: Rev. Charles W. Bell

Committee on Religious Education and Youth Work: Rev. Rudolph Starling

Committee on Evangelism: Rev. Carroll W. Lewis

Kentucky - Tennessee Conference

Moderator: Miss Elizabeth Jenkins

Vice-Moderator: Rev. Harold C. Henderson

Secretary: Mr. Rufus G. Obrecht

Treasurer: Mr. Emerson Poste

Representative to Southeast Convention Board of Directors: Dr. Paul R. Reynolds

Committee on Ministry and Churches: Dr. Paul R. Reynolds

Committee on Survey and Church Aid: Rev. Arnold Slater

Committee on Evangelism: Rev. Harold W. Freer

Committee on Missionary Education and Stewardship: Rev. A. Ray Meserve

Committee on Christian Education and Youth Work: Rev. Victor E. Mar-

South Alabama - Northwest Florida Association

Moderator: Rev. Warren A. Blankenhorn

Vice-Moderator: Rev. Warner Noles

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Bernice Carter

Representative to the Southeast Convention Board of Directors — Rev. J. Kermit Harris

Committee on Christian Education: Rev. Warner Noles

Committee on Stewardship and Missionary Education: Rev. J. Kermit Harris

Pledge Of Allegiance To Christian Stewardship

(Reprinted from the Maine
Christian Pilgrim)

1. I will not eat my food unless I help furnish another's bread.

2. I will not add to my wardrobe unless I help clothe the underclad.

3. I will not add new comforts in my home unless I help provide shelter for the homeless.

4. I will indulge in no expensive recreation or social pleasure for myself unless I am definitely making life richer for someone else somewhere else.

5. I will not be content to beautify my local church, improve the school in my community, or support my area hospital without helping to build churches, schools and hospitals in other parts of the world.

If we can live up to that pledge then we can safely assume we are on the right road to become a Good Christian Steward.

riott

Committee on Christian Action: Rev. Clyde C. Flannery

Georgia - S. C. Conference

Moderator: Mr. Joseph E. Tatum
Associate Moderator: Rev. W. M. McCullars

Treasurer: Rev. James T. McAdams

Scribe: Mrs. J. C. Harris

Representative to Southeast Convention Board of Directors: Rev. Samuel D. Nelson

Committee on Ministry and Churches:
Dr. Thomas Anderson

Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education: Rev. W. Raymond Berry

Committee on Survey and Church Aid: Mrs. Richard Churchill

Committee on Christian Education and Youth Work: Mrs. Alfred G. Peacock

The Fort Berthold Churches A Project For Children And Youth

The church in "town and country" may mean many things in these changing times. One small group of town and country churches in North Dakota ministers primarily to Indian Americans on the Fort Berthold Reservation. And the seven churches in this group represent some of the variety within the designation "town and country." Four of them are prairie churches far out of sight of even a house. The other three are in towns — the newly formed church at New Town, and two smaller chapels.

All of the North Dakota Indian churches are responding in one way or other to the challenge of change. The Fort Berthold Reservation is no longer isolated from the rest of the community — when the evacuation of the Missouri bottom lands for the construction of the Garrison Dam took place, not only were three different tribes mixed up in the process of relocation, but many persons moved into or near traditionally white areas. The New Town Church is distinctly bi-racial and others are leaning that way.

The North Dakota churches are still greatly in need of help. They are fac-

ing extremely difficult problems of adjustment at a time when the economic status of their members is getting worse and worse. In addition to the help given through the Board of Home Missions, there are a number of material needs that can be met through Friendly Service:

GOOD, USEABLE CLOTHING for the Thrift Shop.

Ship to: Congregational Thrift Shop, New Town, North Dakota.

Send postal telling what has been sent to the Thrift Shop to: Mrs. Harold Case, 121 Sioux Ave., Bismarck, North Dakota (For further details on type of clothing wanted write to: Children's Friendly Service, 287 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.).

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Pencils, notebooks, fountain pens, ball point pens, stationery, folders, craft materials, etc.

BOOKS: Story books for children ages 8-12; devotional books, travel, etc.

GAMES AND TOYS: Softball, baseball gloves, dolls of all kinds, toys.

Ship the above items prepaid to one of the following:

Rev. Robert Fox, Emmet, N. Dakota; Rev. Ralph Galt, Mandaree, North Dakota; Rev. Austin Engel Jr., New Town, N. Dakota; Mr. George Gillette, Snow Bird Chapel, Mandaree, North Dakota.

Enclose card of identification, giving name and address of sender, church and list of contents. Say that it is a Friendly Service gift. Send postcard to the minister advising him that package is on its way.

This project was suggested by the Missionary Education Committee of the Division of Christian Education. Church Schools using Pilgrim Series materials will find missionary suggestions in their regular curriculum courses. This project is planned for our church schools using closely graded, elective or other materials, or for church schools and other church groups desiring additional giving suggestions.

Echoes Of Southern Union College

Everyone is rejoicing at the success of the campaign for funds to improve and enlarge the facilities of our college.

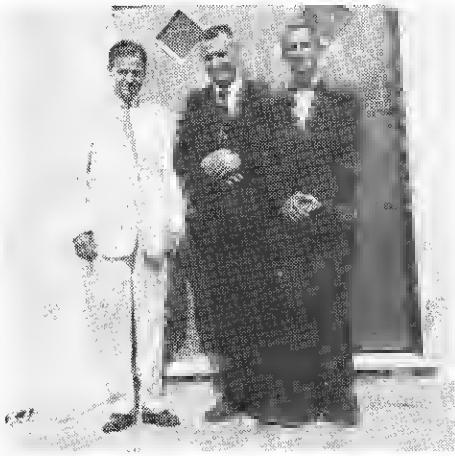
The enrollment for the fall quarter is now complete and is down just a little from the same time a year ago. The exact reasons for this fact include the dropping of football, the elimination of students who can pay nothing at all, and the raising of entrance requirements.

The 1959-60 faculty is believed to be the finest ever assembled at the college. The 15 professors and the 13 staff members — 28 people, compose a formidable family.

The college has been represented at all the Association meetings of the Southeast Convention, as well as the Eastern and Mid-West Regional Meetings of the USA at Hartford, Connecticut and Oak Park, Illinois.

Pictures from

Fall Association - Conference Meetings



ABOVE — L to R: Rev. David W. Clark, Moderator; Rev. Guy L. Colbert, Scribe; Rev. Ernest T. Shelton, Vice-Moderator of the North Alabama Association.



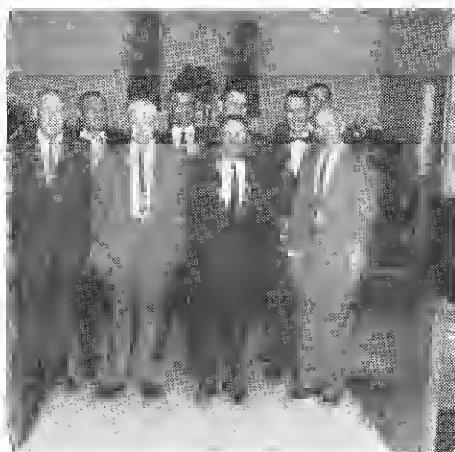
BELOW — L to R, front row: Rev. A. C. Nelson, Mr. Paul Baird, Rev. Roy Chatham, and Rev. A. R. Van Cleave; rear row: Rev. Wallace Roberts, Rev. John D. Schofield, Rev. Winford Walters, Rev. Floyd Carmack, and Rev. Charles Bell of the East Alabama Association.

ABOVE — Rev. Sydney K. Bunker, President of Jaffna College, Ceylon; and Rev. Edward A. Driscoll, Executive Secretary of the Georgia Council of Churches.



ABOVE — L to R: Mr. Joseph E. Tatum, Moderator of the Ga. - S. C. Conference; and Rev. James T. McAdams, Treasurer of the Conference and Pastor of the newly elected Moderator from Atlanta.

BELOW — Front row, L to R: Rev. J. Kermit Harris, Rev. Warren A. Blankenhorn, Rev. Warner Noles; Rear row, L to R: Rev. N. A. Long, Rev. Ralph D. Worley, Rev. I. J. Robinson, Rev. E. J. Hamby.



People... Churches... Events...

HERE AND THERE

Pleasant Hill Community Church Of Tennessee



Dedicated on Sunday, September 27, 1959

Mt. Grove Fellowship Reports Year Of Work

Mt. Grove Women's Fellowship has been active this year. We meet once each month, usually at the home of a member.

During this year we have sent \$20.00 to Southern Union College. We have sent flowers to those members of our church who were confined to hospitals, and to the families of those of our members who passed away, as well as to some who were not members of Mt. Grove.

We have ordered Christmas cards to sell. We hope in this way to raise enough money to air-condition our church.

We wish to express our thanks to our pastor and his wife. They have been very faithful to our society and to our church.

Our new treasurer for the coming year is Mrs. Bernice Vansant.

Mrs. Lee Allred
Sect'y. - Treasurer

Williams Chapel Women Hold Monthly Meeting

Ladies' Guild No. One met at the home of Mrs. Olie Thompson recently. Mrs. E. P. Wilder, president, presided. Mrs. Fred Thomas gave the Devotional.

The theme of the program was the six departments of work. Mrs. Fred Thomas brought her gift and gave a talk on Stewardship. In the same manner, Mrs. Todd gave a talk on Christian Social Action; Mrs. Hendrix on Missionary Education; Mrs. Wynn on Friendly Service; Mrs. Jernigan on Christian Education and Family Life; and Mrs. Yerby on Spiritual Life and Evangelism. Mrs. Wilder gave a talk on "The Nearness of God."

There were ten members present. After delicious refreshments, the meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Edward Knight, Reporter

The Reverend Clarence W. Baldwin, 604 Broadway, Birmingham 9, Alabama, minister of Pilgrim Congregational Church, will be glad to call on patients from our churches in the Birmingham Hospitals if he is informed concerning them.

* * * *

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., has 100 - 120 used Pilgrim Hymnals, in good condition, for sale. Interested churches should write Pilgrim Church, Glenwood at Third, Chattanooga 3, Tenn.

* * * *

Rev. Harold Wiley Freer, minister of the First Congregational Church, Crossville, Tenn., was one of the leaders for the Conference on Evangelism for the United Church held at the Lyle Center in New York in September.

* * * *

Rev. John D. Schofield, minister of the Lanett, Ala., Congregational Christian Church, has been elected president of the Lanett Minister's Alliance for 1959 - 60.

* * * *

Rev. and Mrs. Peter Doherty will be leaving Columbus, Ga., this month to make their home at 2909 Bayview Ave., Tampa, Florida. Mr. Doherty has been serving our church at Richland since his retirement from Columbus, First.

* * * *

Rev. and Mrs. Paul McCartt, now at South Solon, Ohio, announce the birth of Samuel Ernest in October.

* * * *

Rev. Herman S. Ritter, pastor of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Birmingham, Ala., has accepted a call to the St. John's United Church of Christ, Vincennes, Indiana.

* * * *

Rev. A. C. Nelson has been called to the Todd Church, Shawmut, Ala., effective Nov. 1.

* * * *

Rev. G. Roy Walker has resigned at Roanoke, Antioch and accepted a call to Wedowee, Noon Day. He will continue to serve Dadeville, Elder.

Churches Will Give To Share Our Surplus

During the latter part of November, thousands of churches and communities from coast to coast will spotlight the year-round SOS endeavor with special services. These observances will be held either on Thanksgiving Day or on one of the Sundays close to Thanksgiving.

The churches of the Southeast Convention are urged to receive special offerings for SOS during the month of November and to send the contributions to the Southeast Convention office. They will then be sent to the Congregational Christian Service Committee and from there to Church World Service, in which 36 denominations cooperate in this major relief effort.

Every dollar contributed to the SOS program provides more than 300 pounds of food — a pound of food to each of more than 300 of the world's hungry.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower has stated, "The overseas relief programs of our religious organizations constitute a major portion of America's private aid to people in need around the world."

"For the hungry, the homeless, the sick, and for all who require a helping hand, these programs are a faithful source of life and hope."

In 1958, a total of 340,682,127 pounds of Share Our Surplus Foods valued at \$27,983,905 was sent overseas by our churches through Church World Service for free distribution to hungry people.

Transportation costs on these foods, donated from U. S. stocks, were paid in most cases by our government or by that of the countries concerned.

In the SOS program \$5 will give bowls of cereal to more than 15,000 people; \$10 will give bread to 9,000 needy children and \$100 will give a cup of milk to 700,000 people.

Southeast Churches Support Christian Higher Education

During the next few months the churches of the Southeast Convention will be requested to accept suggested quotas in the Christian Higher Education Fund campaign of our Congregational Christian Churches.

The Congregational Christian Churches over the nation plan to raise \$7,500,000 for Christian Higher Education. The Southeast Convention, at its annual meeting in April, voted to accept a goal of \$25,000 for the churches in the convention.

This present campaign marks the first national effort of major proportions for the denomination since the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign for \$4,500,000 several years ago.

The churches of the convention are urged to accept the suggested goal in order that this area may do its share and meet its commitment in this important undertaking.

The churches will be asked to sign a "Declaration of Intention" just as they did in the Church Building Loan Campaign. But payments on the Christian Higher Education Fund should be sent to the Southeast Convention office.

Congregational Christian interest in higher education around the world is concentrated in some 28 church-related colleges, 11 seminaries, and approximately 200 campus ministries in the United States and in 50 institutions sponsored by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 14 countries overseas.

This Christian Higher Education Fund will be distributed on a 40-40-20 percentage basis among the American Board, the Board of Home Missions and the state and Regional Conferences and Conventions, each agency to use its share to further its work in the field of higher education.

\$7,500,000 will not meet all of the crucial higher education needs, but it will help to meet the present emergency.



Front Row, L to R: Barbara Looser, Mary Sue Johnson, and Betty Kirby. Back Row, L to R: Billy Robinson, Rev. C. W. Bell.

Wadley District PF Elects New Officers

The Wadley District Pilgrim Fellowship met at the Lowell Congregational Christian Church, Roanoke, Alabama, on Sunday afternoon, October 18.

The following officers were elected:

President: Mary Sue Johnson; vice-president, Betty Kirby; secretary-treasurer, Cheryl Kirby; Fellowship Commission chairman, Billy Robinson; Faith Commission chairman, Douglas Fallen; Action Commission chairman, Barbara Looser; Adult Advisors, Rev. Floyd Carmack and Rev. Charles Bell.

Enigma Christian Church Enters Full-Time Program

The Enigma (Georgia) Christian Church recently voted to begin a program of full-time pastoral service. Rev. Otto L. Culpepper will continue as minister and has resigned from the Ambrose Church.